

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 207440

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 18942 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TEL
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QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 18942

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP EG
SUBJECT: GAMASY VIEWS ON CAMP DAVID SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY: GAMASY SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN UPCOMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. I BRIEFED HIM ON OUR OBJECTIVES. HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM DESPITE WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS MANY DOUBTS BEING VOICED LOCALLY THAT SUMMIT WILL SUCCEED. HE WAS PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL PERSONALLY BE INVOLVED AND THOUGHT IT SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. GAMASY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SADAT HAS NOT SPOKEN TO HIM ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN MEETING. IF THE PRESIDENT WANTS HIM TO GO, GAMASY WILL BE PLEASED TO DO SO; IF THE PRESIDENT SAYS NOTHING, THIS IS ALSO AGREEABLE. HE BELIEVES MATTER SHOULD BE LEFT SOLELY FOR SADAT TO

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DECIDE. END SUMMARY.

2. MET TODAY WITH GAMASY, AT MY REQUEST, IN CONNECTION WITH SOME OUTSTANDING MILITARY MATTERS (SEPTEL). HIS FIRST AND IMMEDIATE INTEREST WAS THE UPCOMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT. WHAT DO WE HOPE WILL COME OUT OF IT? I GAVE HIM GENERAL BACKGROUND BRIEFING AS WELL AS WHY WE BELIEVE

SUCH A SUMMIT IS DESIRABLE NOW. TOLD HIM OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, ONE WHICH WILL ALLOW NEGOTIATIONS TO CONTINUE AND KING HUSSEIN TO PARTICIPATE. PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE SECRETARY HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT WE CONSIDER OURSELVES FULL PARTNERS IN THE EXERCISE. FACT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS ENGAGING HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE IN THIS FASHION IS INDICATIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT WE ATTACH TO THE MEETING. I THEN ASKED GAMASY FOR HIS VIEWS.

3. GAMASY SAID HE WAS OPTIMISTIC. DESPITE ALL THE DOUBTS THAT ARE BEING VOICED LOCALLY AS TO WHETHER THE CAMP DAVID SUMMIT WILL SUCCEED, HE BELIEVED IT WILL. HE RECOGNIZED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE SUMMIT AND HOPED THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE ABLE TO CLEAR AWAY SOME OF THE UNDER-BRUSH SO THAT A SATISFACTORY DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES CAN BE OBTAINED. HE ADMITTED THAT THE STAKES ARE HIGH. HIS OFFICERS, HE COMMENTED, ARE SKEPTICAL THAT THE USG CAN BE RELIED UPON IN A MATTER CONCERNING ISRAEL, BUT HE PERSONALLY HAD SENSED DURING HIS RECENT TALKS IN WASHINGTON THAT THERE IS A GENUINE DETERMINATION FROM PRESIDENT CARTER ON DOWN TO ARRIVE AT A JUST AND DURABLE SETTLEMENT.

4. GAMASY THOUGHT THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT
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TO WORK OUT A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. THE PROBLEM, HE SAID, IS THAT THERE ARE TOO MANY BUREAUCRATS IN EGYPT, ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES WHO ARE WORD-SMITHING. THIS HAS GOTTEN US NOWHERE. HE HAD SUGGESTED TO SADAT THAT THE EGYPTIANS COME UP WITH A DRAFT DECLARATION, THE ISRAELIS WILL DOUBTLESS ALSO HAVE ONE AND THE U.S. MIGHT HAVE ITS OWN. THE THREE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SHOULD, IN HIS VIEW, BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREED TEXT. HE HAD EARLIER PROPOSED THIS IDEA TO WEIZMAN, WHO LIKED IT. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER SADAT WILL PROCEED ON THIS BASIS, BUT THOUGHT THAT THE PRESIDENT OUGHT TO DO SO.

5. ASKED WHETHER HE EXPECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CAMP DAVID TALKS, GAMASY SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID NOTHING TO HIM ABOUT THE MATTER. HE HAD SEEN THE LIST OF PRINCIPAL DELEGATES AS PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS. HIS NAME HAD NOT BEEN INCLUDED. ASHRAF GHORBAL HAD A FEW DAYS AGO SPOKEN TO HIM IN ALEXANDRIA SAYING THAT, SINCE WEIZMAN WILL BE ON THE ISRAELI DELEGATION, HE, GAMASY, SHOULD BE INCLUDED ON THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. IF THE PRESIDENT WANTS HIM TO

GO, GAMASY SAID, HE WILL BE PLEASED TO DO SO. IF THE PRESIDENT SAYS NOTHING, THIS IS ALSO AGREEABLE. HE WAS NOT PUSHING HIS CASE FOR INCLUSION. (AT SAME TIME IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WEIZMAN AGAIN.)

6. I ASKED GAMASY IF HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE SUGGESTED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT GAMASY BE INCLUDED. GAMASY CONFIRMED MY VIEW THAT IT WOULD NOT BE WISE. SADAT, HE NOTED, WILL RESENT SUCH ADVICE AND MIGHT DIG IN HIS HEELS STILL MORE. AS FAR AS GAMASY IS CONCERNED THE MATTER SHOULD BE LEFT SOLELY FOR THE PRESIDENT TO DECIDE. EILTS

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UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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